

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated April 4, 2005 having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 4, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 21, 24, 25, 27, 29-31, 33-35, 38, 42 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Cumming, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,070,671).

In response, Applicants canceled claims 38, 42 and 45 without prejudice. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 21 to include the limitation of claim 28 which depended from claim 21. Since the Examiner indicated claim 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim, Applicants submit that claim 21 is currently allowable over *Cumming, et al.* Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 21 and claims 24, 25, 27, 29-31, 33-35 dependent thereon.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 44 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cumming, et al.* in view of *Prout* (U.S. Patent No. 2,383,214). In response, Applicants have canceled claim 44 without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 26, 28, 36 and 37 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As discussed above in the traversal to the § 102 rejection, Applicants have amended claim 21 to include the limitation of claim 28 and hence have canceled claim 28. Claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 36 and 37 have been amended to be in independent form. While these claims omit the recitation of "and a corresponding

PATENT

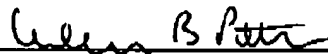
Atty. Dkt. No. WEAT/0024.C1

increase in diameter of the casing" which was included in their respective base claims. Claims 36 and 37 were indicated as allowable in the previous office action prior to the amendment to the base claim adding this limitation. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 26, 36 and 37 are allowable and respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection and allowance thereof.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



William B. Patterson
Registration No. 34,102
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants